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Response**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: LADUNGA et al.

Art Unit: 1646

Serial No.: 09/708,724

Examiner: Michael Pak

Filed: November 9, 2000

Atty. Docket: CL000841

For: ISOLATED HUMAN SECRETED
PROTEINS, NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES
ENCODING HUMAN SECRETED PROTEINS,
AND USES THEREOF

Response to Office Action

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action issued by Examiner Pak on March 24, 2003, Applicants request reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following remarks. A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time is filed herewith.

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action mailed March 24, 2003. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 4, 8-9, and 24-29 under 35 USC §101 and §112, 1st paragraph:

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 8-9, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and §112, 1st paragraph. In summary, the Examiner has stated that the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility and, consequently, one skilled in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention.

In making these rejections, the Examiner states, in part, that the claims are drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a secreted protein which is an orphan polypeptide whose function is not